

CONFIDENTIAL

27 January 1964

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum of 24 January requesting my comment on Mr. McCone's Memorandum for the President relating to CIA's relations with the press

1. There is nothing in the first six short paragraphs that I find in error.
2. I cannot agree with the seventh paragraph (the one which runs over the page). In the first place, I do not believe that the credibility of statements regarding the Soviet economy would be lessened by the fact of State Department authorship. In the second place, let us not pretend that the American people regard CIA as an agency of government with no "policy ax" to grind. I find it hard to believe that Americans will accept a CIA report because they respect the Agency's objectivity, and will reject a State Department report because they know that State Department reporting is always tarnished by policy.
3. I have long held the American press and the people who work for it in the very lowest esteem. An Agency such as

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ours cannot possibly win by having any dealings whatsoever with the press. It is my honest opinion that over the long run we will do better by taking the knocks as they come and maintaining a dignified silence. I would hope that our most recent experience with the press conference amply conveyed its message.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

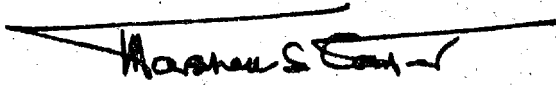
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Executive Registry
64-595

24 January 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director
DD/NIPE
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✓AD/NE
General Counsel
Inspector General

I am planning to schedule a meeting with the President sometime on Monday or Tuesday, 27 or 28 January, to discuss a number of subjects including the attached memorandum for the President prepared by the DCI before his departure for Europe. Will you please personally review this memorandum and let me have your comments sometime Monday before I meet with the President.


Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

Attachment